

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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HIGHWAY SAFETY ADMINISTRATION TO BEGIN VEHICLE ROLLOVER TESTING

*Markey Provision Gives Consumers Critical Safety Data
Lawmaker Hails Inauguration of "Rubber-Meets-The-Road" Ratings*

Washington, DC: Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, released the following statement regarding the decision that dynamic rollover tests will begin by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"As the author of the provision of the TREAD Act that required dynamic rollover testing, I am pleased that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is poised to begin such tests. Based upon a 5-star rating system, I believe this rollover information will be invaluable to consumers. Previous ratings systems merely measured the mathematical ratios of a vehicle's dimensions. By testing the actual handling of a vehicle in driving situations, the new ratings will allow consumers to better evaluate and compare the overall rollover resistance of light vehicles – passenger cars, SUVs and light trucks.

"This is the kind of 'where the rubber-meets-the-road' ratings consumers have been yearning for. Rollover data is important information for prospective buyers: data as recent as 1999 reveals that in that year alone 10,140 Americans died as a result of light vehicle rollovers – and eighty percent of those deaths occurred in single vehicle rollovers.

"I want to commend NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Runge for his efforts in bringing these new dynamic tests to reality."

More information can be found at www.house.gov/markey.

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